### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



## Chris Abele

#### MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

#### For Immediate Release

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# Milwaukee County Department of Transportation Preps for Winter Weather

Abele Visits Main Shop Monday to Inspect Equipment and Meet Plow Drivers

**MILWAUKEE** – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele will visit Milwaukee County Department of Transportation's main shop, located at 10320 W. Watertown Plank Road, at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2011, which has been proclaimed "Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day" throughout the state of Wisconsin. Abele will meet with county snowplow drivers and learn how the county is preparing for the incoming winter weather.

Milwaukee County maintains approximately 2,300 miles of roadway. The fleet is made up 55 trucks and a crew of 110 snowplow drivers, who are split between two shifts. Between the three shops, Milwaukee County holds approximately 34,000 tons of salt onsite each winter.

"Snowplow drivers work diligently to provide the crucial task of keeping highways and expressways within the county safe and passable for residents and employees during the winter," Abele said. "They work long, irregular hours and put themselves in danger to ensure the roads are safe for us. I think it's important to take time and realize how vital they are to safe commuting in the winter."

Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day is celebrated annually before the winter begins nationwide. On average, Milwaukee County receives 47 inches of snow during the winter, which plow drivers are responsible for removing from all county and state trunk highways and expressways.

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